

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) An end effector assembly for obtaining multiple tissue samples comprising:

a first jaw; and

a jaw assembly pivotally connected to the first jaw and having:

a cutting portion for mating with the first jaw to cut a tissue sample;

a holder; and

a storage portion configured to store tissue samples,

wherein the holder is configured to receive the cutting portion and the storage portion,

wherein the holder has a groove for receiving both a protrusion on the cutting portion and a protrusion on the storage portion.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the holder has a top configured to receive the cutting portion and a bottom configured to receive the storage portion.

3-5. (Cancelled).

6. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the storage portion and a portion of the cutting portion are press-fit into the holder.

7. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the cutting portion and the holder are comprised of different materials.

8. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the cutting portion is comprised of metal and the holder is comprised of a non-metal material.

9. (Original) The device of claim 8, wherein the non-metal material is at least one of plastic, rubber, polycarbonate, PEEK, and Nylon.

10. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the cutting portion and the holder are comprised of the same material.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The device of claim 1~~ An end effector assembly for obtaining multiple tissue samples comprising:

a first jaw; and

a jaw assembly pivotally connected to the first jaw and having:

a cutting portion for mating with the first jaw to cut a tissue sample;

a holder; and

a storage portion configured to store tissue samples,

wherein the holder is configured to receive the cutting portion and the

storage portion.

wherein the holder has a groove for receiving both a protrusion on the cutting portion and a protrusion on the storage portion, wherein both the cutting portion and the holder are comprised of metal.

12. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the first jaw includes a holder and a cutting portion.

13. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the holder and the cutting portion are formed separately.

14. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the holder is formed around the cutting portion.

15. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the storage portion is a pouch.

16. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the cutting portion has a non-straight portion connecting a tang to a cutting edge and configured to be received in a correspondingly-shaped gap in the holder.

17. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the cutting portion includes a cutting edge opposing a cutting surface of the first jaw.

18. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the cutting portion is stamped.

19. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the holder is injection molded.
20. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the cutting portion inserts into the holder.
21. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the cutting portion extends from the holder.
22. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the cutting portion is configured to provide structural support to the holder.
23. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein a sharp portion of the first jaw mates with the cutting portion to cut the tissue sample.
24. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein a sharp portion of the cutting portion mates with the first jaw to cut the tissue sample.
25. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein a sharp portion of the first jaw mates with a sharp portion of the cutting portion to cut the tissue sample.
26. (Previously Presented) An endoscopic instrument comprising:

a proximal handle coupled to a distal end effector assembly via an elongate member, the proximal handle for actuating the distal end effector assembly;

wherein the distal end effector assembly includes:

a first jaw; and

a jaw assembly pivotally connected to the first jaw and having:

a cutting portion for mating with the first jaw to cut a tissue sample;

a holder; and

a storage portion configured to store tissue samples,

wherein the holder is configured to receive the cutting portion and the storage portion,

wherein the holder has a groove for receiving both a protrusion on the cutting portion and a protrusion on the storage portion.

27. (Original) The device of claim 26, wherein the holder has a top configured to receive the cutting portion and a bottom configured to receive the storage portion.

28-30. (Cancelled).

31. (Original) The device of claim 26, wherein the cutting portion and the holder are composed of different materials.

32. (Original) The device of claim 26, wherein the cutting portion is comprised of metal and the holder is comprised of a non-metal material.

33. (Original) The device of claim 32, wherein the non-metal material is at least one of plastic, rubber, polycarbonate, PEEK, and Nylon.

34. (Original) The device of claim 26, wherein the cutting portion and the holder are comprised of the same material.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~The device of claim 26~~ An endoscopic instrument comprising:

a proximal handle coupled to a distal end effector assembly via an elongate member, the proximal handle for actuating the distal end effector assembly;

wherein the distal end effector assembly includes:

a first jaw; and

a jaw assembly pivotally connected to the first jaw and having:

a cutting portion for mating with the first jaw to cut a tissue sample;

a holder; and

a storage portion configured to store tissue samples,

wherein the holder is configured to receive the cutting portion and

the storage portion,

wherein the holder has a groove for receiving both a protrusion on the cutting portion and a protrusion on the storage portion, wherein both the cutting portion and the holder are comprised of metal.

36. (Original) The device of claim 26, wherein the first jaw includes a holder and a cutting portion.

37. (Original) The device of claim 26, wherein the holder and the cutting portion are formed separately.

38. (Original) The device of claim 26, wherein the holder is formed around the cutting portion.

39. (Original) The device of claim 26, wherein the storage portion is a pouch.

40. (Original) The device of claim 26, wherein the cutting portion has a non-straight portion connecting a tang to a cutting edge and configured to be received in a correspondingly-shaped gap in the holder.

41. (Original) The device of claim 26, wherein the cutting portion includes a cutting edge opposing a cutting surface of the first jaw.

42. (Original) The device of claim 26, wherein the cutting portion is stamped.

43. (Original) The device of claim 26, wherein the holder is injection molded.

44. (Original) The device of claim 26, wherein the cutting portion inserts into the holder.

45. (Original) The device of claim 26, wherein at least a portion of the cutting portion extends from the holder.

46. (Original) The device of claim 26, wherein the cutting portion is configured to provide structural support to the holder.

47. (Original) The device of claim 26, wherein a sharp portion of the first jaw mates with the cutting portion to cut the tissue sample.

48. (Original) The device of claim 26, wherein a sharp portion of the cutting portion mates with the first jaw to cut the tissue sample.

49. (Original) The device of claim 26, wherein a sharp portion of the first jaw mates with a sharp portion of the cutting portion to cut the tissue sample.

50. (Currently Amended) An endoscopic instrument comprising:
a proximal handle coupled to a distal end effector assembly via an elongate member, the proximal handle for actuating the distal end effector assembly;
wherein the distal end effector assembly includes:
a first end effector; and

a second end effector assembly pivotally connected to the first end effector and having:

a second end effector for mating with the first end effector to perform an operation; and

a holder configured to receive the second end effector,

wherein the second end effector has a non-straight portion

connecting a tang to a cutting edge and configured to be received in a correspondingly-shaped gap in the holder,

wherein the holder has a groove closer to a bottom of the holder than a top of the holder to receive an edge of the second end effector, when the non-straight portion is received in the correspondingly-shaped gap in the holder.

51. (Cancelled).

52. (Original) The device of claim 50, wherein at least a portion of the second end effector is press-fit into the holder.

53. (Original) The device of claim 50, wherein the second end effector and the holder are comprised of different materials.

54. (Original) The device of claim 50, wherein the second end effector is comprised of metal and the holder is comprised of a non-metal material.

55. (Original) The device of claim 54, wherein the non-metal material is at least one of plastic, rubber, polycarbonate, PEEK, and Nylon.

56. (Original) The device of claim 50, wherein the first end effector includes a holder and an end effector portion.

57. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[50]]~~ 56, wherein the holder and the end effector portion are formed separately.

58. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[50]]~~ 56, wherein the holder is formed around the end effector portion.

59. (Original) The device of claim 50, wherein the second end effector is stamped.

60. (Original) The device of claim 50, wherein the holder is injection molded.

61. (Original) The device of claim 50, wherein the second end effector inserts into the holder.

62. (Original) The device of claim 50, wherein the second end effector is configured to provide structural support to the holder.

63. (Original) The device of claim 50, wherein a sharp portion of the first end effectors mates with the second end effector to perform the operation.

64. (Original) The device of claim 50, wherein a sharp portion of the second end effector mates with the first end effector to perform the operation.

65. (Original) The device of claim 50, wherein a sharp portion of the first end effector mates with a sharp portion of the second end effector to perform the operation.

66-86. (Cancelled).

87. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 16, wherein the tang defines a pivot bore and an actuator hole, and the non-straight portion is between the tang and the cutting edge.

88. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 40, wherein the tang defines a pivot bore and an actuator hole, and the non-straight portion is between the tang and the cutting edge.

89. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 50, ~~wherein the holder has a groove for receiving a protrusion on the second end effector,~~

wherein at least one of the groove and the protrusion is circumferentially-oriented.

90. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 50, wherein the tang defines a pivot bore and an actuator hole, and the non-straight portion is between the tang and the cutting edge.

91. (Previously Presented) An end effector assembly for obtaining multiple tissue samples comprising:

a first jaw; and

a jaw assembly pivotally connected to the first jaw and having:

a cutting portion for mating with the first jaw to cut a tissue sample;

a holder; and

a storage portion configured to store tissue samples,

wherein the holder is configured to receive the cutting portion and the storage portion,

wherein a protrusion or a recess on the cutting portion is configured to mate with a recess or a protrusion on the storage portion.

92. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 91, wherein the cutting portion has a non-straight portion connecting a tang to a cutting edge and configured to be received in a correspondingly-shaped gap in the holder.

93. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 92, wherein the tang defines a pivot bore and an actuator hole, and the non-straight portion is between the tang and the cutting edge.

94. (Previously Presented) An endoscopic instrument comprising:
a proximal handle coupled to the end effector assembly of claim 91 via an elongate member, the proximal handle for actuating the end effector assembly.

95. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the protrusion on the cutting portion extends continuously about an entire perimeter of a bottom edge of a vertical wall of the cutting portion.

96. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 26, wherein the protrusion on the cutting portion extends continuously about an entire perimeter of a bottom edge of a vertical wall of the cutting portion.

97. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 50, wherein the non-straight portion is a substantially vertical wall extending substantially orthogonal to a plane of a sample hole of the second end effector.

98. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 97, wherein the non-straight portion has a curved shape.

99. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 50, wherein the holder has a bridging portion connecting a tang portion to a cutting edge accommodating portion, the bridging portion including the correspondingly shaped gap.

100. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 99, wherein the tang portion of the holder defines a pivot bore and an actuator hole respectively aligned with a pivot bore and an actuator hole of the tang of the second end effector, when the non-straight portion of the second end effector is received in the correspondingly-shaped gap in the holder.

101. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 100, wherein a wall defining the cutting edge is received within a rounded wall of the cutting edge accommodating portion of the holder, when the non-straight portion of the second end effector is received in the correspondingly-shaped gap in the holder.

102. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 50, wherein the tang is located closer to the proximal handle than the cutting edge.

103. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 102, wherein the non-straight portion has a proximal end attached to the tang and a distal end attached to the cutting edge.

104. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the groove is located closer to a bottom of the holder than a top of the holder.

105. (New) The device of claim 26, wherein the groove is located closer to a bottom of the holder than a top of the holder.

106. (New) The device of claim 50, wherein the holder is comprised of a metal.